

**REMARKS**

The examiner telephoned and urges that there is a lack of unity of invention of the claimed subject matter in this application. The Examiner urges that there are three separate and distinct inventions claimed in the is application as follows:

Group I includes the method of claims 5, 6, 7, 9 and 16.

Group II invention includes the apparatus as defined in claims 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 17.

Group III is the method of claim 15 which the examiner objected to but agreed it was in a separate group.

Applicants elect the Group I invention which includes claims 5, 6, 7, 9 and 16, without traverse. Applicants have canceled claims 10-15 and 17 as being directed to the non-elected invention. Applicants reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications on the non-elected inventions at a later time.

In addition, the Examiner has requested that Applicants provide copies of three "X" category references which were not included with the International Search Report. Applicants submit herewith DD 118263 A1, WO 9840922 A1 and WO 9808771 A2 and request acknowledgment of receipt of these citations in the next Official Action.

In view of the election of the Group I invention, without traverse, and the cancellation of claims 10-15 and 17, an early and favorable action on the merits is now believed to be in order taking into consideration the Search Report and the references cited therein is most respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
BACON & THOMAS, PLLC

By: Richard E. Fichter  
Richard E. Fichter  
Registration No. 26,382

625 Slaters Lane, 4<sup>th</sup> Fl.  
Alexandria, Virginia 22314  
Phone: (703) 683-0500  
Facsimile: (703) 683-1080  
REF:kdd  
A01.wpd  
December 20, 2002